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TWO LETTERS:
THE ONE FROM LIEVTENANT COLONELL Iohn Lilbourne
TO COLONEL *HENRY MARTIN*, a Member of the Houſe of COMMONS.
VVITH HIS ANSWER.

SIR;

I Received yours of the 21. inſtant, even now in anſwer to mine of the 20th inſtant, and I muſt be neceſſitated to tell you, that no man ſo well knows where the ſhooe pi-cheth him, as he that weares it; and my ten yeares experience of afflictions, (without to this day ever obtaining one penny-worth of Juſtice,) being a younger Brother, and having not one foot of land in all the world to ſupport me, hath run me now at laſt in many ſtraights, having wife and children to ſuſtaine and provide for, as well as my ſelfe, ſo that I muſt ingenuouſly confeſſe unto you, if I had not a little credit now and then to borrow a ſumme of money, wee muſt have been forced ere now to have eate one another: and I muſt tell you, that I can not alwayes live upon that ſcore, and debts muſt either be paid in ſome time, or elſe lenders will grow weary,

eſpecially

ofgratefully where they have no other ſecuritie but the bare word of a man in miſery, and preſent poverty, and guilty of my owne death, I dare not lie, but muſt doe the utmoſt that the beſt reaſon GOD hath given unto mee, will dictate unto mee to preſerve my ſelfe, and truely and before God I ſpeake it, I have left no meanes I could thinke of unaſſayed to prevaile with you, to make my report, or at leaſt vigorouſly to endeavour it; for faine I would have been at the Houſe to have paid them according to their deſerts, but I could not come at them ſo fully as I would, but I muſt furiouſly ſmite you, (which I proteſt with ingenuitie I was exceeding loath to doe.) In regard you never by your ſelfe, or under your hand, or by any other way, that I could build upon for an avouched evidence, did ever give me, before now, to underſtand that you had faithfully endeavoured to diſcharge your dutie, whereunto you were often preſt by mee. Now you tell mee you have offered my report twenty times, but could not be heard by your Houſe. I am glad to heare from your ſelfe, you have ſo done, and ſhall give credit to it, and wiſh I had had the ſame information from you the ſooner, that ſo I might not have falne ſo foule upon your ſelfe, who had not a ſmall proportion of my affection; and to your framing an anſwer to my printed Epiſtle to you of the 30th of *May* laſt, I deſire with all my heart, you may goe on, and not ſpare me, nor any man elſe in your way. And I muſt informe you, that when your friend and mine, Mr *W. W.* tould me of it, I was very glad and earneſtly entreated him to preſſe you to finiſh it, telling him what ever was in it againſt mee, if you could not get it printed, I would get it done for you, and pay for it my ſelfe. Sir, goe on I beſeech you with vigor and ſtrength without delay, to diſcharge your dutie about my report, and if upon a hearing before indifferent men, choſen by us, I have done you any wrong, I will abide the award, and punctually performe it, what ever it be, if within my power, and I doubt not but fully to make it evident, that I have been, and am as really your friend and ſervant, to the utmoſt of my power, as you are or have been;

From my moſt illegall captivitie in the Tower of London,
July 23. 1647.

John Lilburne.

FOR

LIEVT: COLONELL

Iohn Lilbourne

At his Lodgings in the *Tower*,

PRESENT THESE.

SIR;

BY yours of the 23th (outside and inside) I am earnestly invited to come abroad in print, for which I have not onely your advice and encouragement, offering to defray the charges thereof your selfe (notwithstanding your poverty;) but I have your example too, (the most taking way of perswasion;) for the same day wherein I received your last by my man, I met your former Letter printed: All which is but concurrent with my own resolution, so expressed when I wrote unto you; and if I be not altogether so early at the Presse as you might expect; (because your selfe would haply have made more haste thither) you may be pleased to impute it, not to a want of knowing what to say in my own behalfe, nor to a loathnesse of being at the charge to publish it, but partly to a kinde of tendernesse at the first setting my foot upon that stage where I was never yet (otherwise then passively,) and partly to the multitude of other businesses, which were enough to distract a better brain

then mine, and ſhake the penne out of a mans hand after he had ſworn to write. In ſo much, as if every one of thoſe whom I have wronged like you (that is, for whom I have not procured what they deſired) ſhould require the ſame ſatisfaction from mee that you doe, Martins Pamphlets bound up in a volume would fill a conſiderable roome in a Bookſellers ſhop, though ſtuffed with nothing but what is moſt true for the matters averred therein, and very civill to the perſons mentioned. Therefore when you ſhall finde your ungentle language anſwered with mildneſſe, I doe freely diſclaim the deſerving of any thanks at your hands, as if I ſpared you, where in truth I ſpare my ſelfe, thinking it leſſe credit for mee to out-run you in evill ſpeaking, then to goe ſlowly on your errands. Upon this very ground I beſeech you not to trouble your ſelfe, (much leſſe any body els) about repairing of mee, till I feele my ſelfe diſlapidated; for, beſides that, (in my conſcience) you never meant mee harme in any thing you ſaid of mee, had your meaning been never ſo bad toward mee: I doe not take my ſelfe to be within the reach of a tongue: bitter words are indeed compared to arrowes, for ſo perhaps be ſaucies them that utters them, and ſome wiſe men, at whom they are well aimed, but I am ſuch a foole as to conceive they are alwayes ſhot upright into the aire, and either vaniſh there, or (if ever you heare any more newes of them) they are ſure to light upon the head of him that ſhot them. Whether you have been miſtaken or no in your cenſures of mee, no man ſhall be Judge but your ſelfe, nor ſhould have been witnes, if there had not been more need of humouring you, then of clearing: Sir,

3 AU 59

Your moſt affectionate

friend and ſervant,

Weſtminſter
26 Julij 47.

H. M.